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Portland Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1952

E. J. Gordon Wallace M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952

Council Offices,
PORTLAND.

July, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Portland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1952 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

There were no outbreaks of serious infectious disease during the year and no deaths occurred from notifiable diseases. In contrast to previous years, no cases of poliomyelitis were notified; only 40 cases of whooping cough were notified, compared with 208 notifications in the previous year.

During the year action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 in respect of five houses which were officially represented as being unfit for human habitation.

Once more it is a pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has invariably been extended to me throughout the year. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their helpful co-operation. In particular Mr. Bolt - your Sanitary Inspector - and Miss J. Hall - part-time clerical assistant have done much to promote the efficiency of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

S. Gordon Wallace.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department Staff

1. Medical Officer of Health:

   E.J.Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

2. Sanitary Inspector:

   Mr. H.R.A.Bolt, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

3. Clerk (part-time):

   Miss J. Hall.

4. Sanitary Labourer:

   Mr. C. Otter.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (land and internal water).....2,905 acres

Population (mid 1952)
Estimated by Registrar General.....15,000

No. of houses inhabited at 1st April 1953
(exclusive of Government properties).....2516

Rateable Value at 1st April 1953.....£63,046

Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st
April 1953.....£255

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Total Births.....157
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....10.47
*Comparability Factor (births).....1.66
Standarised Birth Rate
per 1,000 population.....17.38

Live Births: 152

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	55	85	140
Illegitimate	8	4	12
TOTAL	63	89	152

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 10.13

Still Births: 5

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	4	5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 0.33
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live &
still) births: 31.85

DEATHS

Total Deaths.....109
Death Rate per 1,000 population.....7.27
*Comparability Factor (deaths).....1.36
Standarised Death Rate.....9.89

Deaths: 109

Males	Females	Total
58	51	109

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	1	1
TOTAL	1	3	4

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks:

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1
TOTAL	1	2	3

Infant Mortality Rates:

All infants per 1,000 live births..... 26.32
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births..... 21.43
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births..... 83.33
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate..... 19.74
Maternal Mortality Rate..... 6.36

* Comparability Factor This is worked out for each District by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the populations of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standarised birth and death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude rates.

	England and Wales	160 C.Boro's and Gt.Towns including London	160 Smaller towns (resident pop. 25-50,000 at 1951 Census	London Admin. County
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Births				
Live births ...	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still births ...	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
	(22.6(a)	24.6(a)	23.0(a)	19.2(a)
Deaths				
All Causes... ...	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and Para.T.	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Whooping Cough...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria... ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31

	England and Wales	160 C.Boro's and Gt.Towns including London	160 Smaller towns (resident pop. 25-50,000 at 1951 Census	London Admin. County
		Rates per 1,000 Home Population		
Deaths (continued)				
Influenza... ...	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Ac.poliomyelitis (incl.polio-encephalitis)...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia... ...	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Notifications (corrected)				
Typhoid Fever...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal Inf.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever...	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough..	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria.. ...	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas.. ...	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia... ...	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Ac.poliomyelitis (incl.polio-encephalitis)				
Paralytic. ...	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning..	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal pyrexia	7.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	30.77(a)
		Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age...	27.6(b)	31.2	25.8	23.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age...	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and Cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	61	0.09	-
(Abortion with toxaemia	13	0.02	1
A116 (Other toxaemias of (pregnancy and the (puerperium	147	0.21	-
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth..	59	0.09	-
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxaemia	31	0.04	3
A119 Abortion with sepsis..	47	0.07	5
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	138	0.20	-

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT - 1952.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections... ...	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infections and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	1	5
11. Malignant neoplasm,lung,bronchus	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes...	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	13	20
18. Coronary disease, angina... ...	9	6	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
20. Other heart disease	13	10	23
21. Other circulatory disease ...	3	-	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	2	2
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis... ...	-	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations... ...	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	6	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	3	-	3
35. Suicide	-	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL	58	51	109

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious Disease notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:

	March	June	September	December	Total 1952.
Scarlet Fever	3	-	1	2	6
Whooping Cough	24	15	1	-	40
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic do.	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	9	54	1	1	65
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	3	-	2	8
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Para-typhoid Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	1	1

FOOD POISONING

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning nor were any individual cases notified during the year.

CLEAN FOOD

Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 are in force in the district and have been distributed free of charge to all shops were food is handled.

No special 'Clean Food Campaign' was held during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Nine samples of the public water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and eight were reported to be satisfactory. The ninth sample was not up to the usual high standard but a repeat sample taken immediately on receipt of this report was found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a main water supply pumped from the Friar Waddon borehole where the supply is chlorinated.

A sample taken for chemical analysis at the Friar Waddon Pumping Station on the 27th February, 1952 was reported upon in detail in last year's Report when the Analyst stated that ".....the water is organically very pure but rather hard. It is suitable for drinking and domestic use."

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Under Section 11 of this Act, five houses were represented as being individually unfit for human habitation viz:-

No. 91 Chiswell
No. 60 Chiswell
No. 66 Chiswell
No. 68 Chiswell
No. 70 Chiswell

No objections were raised by the various owners in respect of Nos. 60, 68, 70 and 91 Chiswell; while in the case of No. 66 Chiswell, an undertaking that it be not used for human habitation was accepted by the Council.

No. 139 Fortuneswell The undertaking previously given by the owner was cancelled during the year on the completion of extensive alterations to the premises.

No. 149 Fortuneswell A Closing Order in respect of an underground room in this building was made under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Council Dwellings	In process of erection	Completed during 1952	Completed since end of war
Temporary	-	-	40
Permanent			
Traditional Type... ...	-	-	100
Non-traditional Type...	134	54	131
TOTAL	134	54	271

HOUSING PROGRESS (continued)

The Verne Common Stage I Site was completed during the year and a start was made on the Verne Common Stage II Site in July, 1952. It is anticipated that this Estate will be completed during 1953 when a total of 238 Council houses and flats will have been erected on the Verne Common.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 269

During the year licences were issued for four caravans to be stationed and used in the district. Each licence was limited to a period of six months and was subject to sanitary conditions being maintained. No serious complaints were made regarding these caravans.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Act or under the Amendment Act of 1951 to secure the removal of a person unable to devote to himself proper care and attention.

One elderly lady, living alone, was however kept under observation.

LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS

In April 1952, a modern electric cabinet for the humane destruction of dogs and cats was presented to the Council by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This was installed at the Council's Wide Street Depot and is available on Saturday mornings from 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.

This service has been much appreciated and during the year 48 dogs and 101 cats were humanely destroyed.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities... ...	34	67	5	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	39	109	13	Nil.
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	5	8	1	Nil.
TOTAL...	78	184	19	Nil

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	10	10	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation...	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient...	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective..	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences... ... against the Act ...	4	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	19	18	-	-	-

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With few exceptions the water carriage system is of general use in the District. The closet accommodation is satisfactory. The disposal is by means of three outfalls to the sea.

There are twelve buildings drained into cesspools.
Three have pail closets.
Three buildings have septic and filter tanks.
In two instances premises are drained into natural fissures.

SHOPS ACT

Number of inspections made under the Shops Acts - 73.
No exemption certificates were granted during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS

Number of Register... 78
Number of inspections made... 184
Number of notices 19
Number of defects found 19
Number of defects remedied... 18

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

Total number of complaints received 90
Total number of visits and inspections made ... 1742

Nature of Inspection
Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances etc. in course of abatement 433
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases ... 26
Premises disinfected 11
Visits in connection with Infestation 25
Premises disinfested 15

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE (Continued)

Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies...	16
Visits to Food preparing shops, Canteens, Restaurants etc.	175
Visits to Fish Frying Shops.	57
Visits to Bakehouses	67
Visits to Meat Shops	76
Visits to Factories	184
Visits in connection with Rats Destruction...	77
Miscellaneous visits, interviews with property owners etc....	169
Visits under Shops Acts	73
Drain tests carried out - water	89
Smoke	27
Drains unstopped	116
Premises cleansed	3
Accumulations removed	2
Number of Council houses inspected...	359

REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses	-
Offensive Trades	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	-

Huts are used for seasonal occupation; they have a water supply, but no sewerage disposal system. Public conveniences are provided near the sites by the Local Authority.

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	30

MILK SUPPLY

Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register	Inspections made	Number of Contraventions Found during year	Remedied during year
5	15	-	-

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) 1936

Number of Licences issued in respect of -

Tuberculin tested	- Bottling	-
	- Dealers	-
	- Supplementary	-
Accredited	- Bottling	-
	- Dealers	1
	- Supplementary	-
Pasteurised	- Pasteurising Plants	-
	- Dealers (Retail)	-
	- Supplementary (Retail)	2

FOOD CONDEMNED

Meat...	60 tins
Meat, carcase	428 lbs.
Meat pies	900
Cooked ham	93 lbs.
Fish...	11 tins
Fruit	255 tins

FOOD CONDEMNED (continued)

Preserves	3 jars
Vegetables	57 tins
Milk...	27 tins
Shell Eggs	555
Cereals	8 cwt.
Oats...	3 cwt. 43 lbs.
Spaghetti	10 cwt.
Confectionery (chocs.)	108 pks.
Pickles	4 jars

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	109
No. of inspections made for the purpose... ...	327

Remedy of Defects - Informal Action

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	101

Remedy of Defects - Statutory Action

Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by local authority in default of owners	-

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	-
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	-
(b) by local authority in default of owners	-

Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of a Demolition Order	1

Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act 1936

No. of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1

OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding exists but to what extent is not known. Several cases of overcrowding have been abated by the granting of tenancies of Council Houses by the Council.